

**Amendment to the drawings:**

Substitute drawings labeled "Prior Art" are provided for Figures 1 and 2.

**Remarks:**

Applicant hereby affirms election of claims 1-10 for prosecution; claims 11-18 are withdrawn from examination.

Substitute drawings with the legend "Prior Art" are provided for Figures 1 and 2.

The title of the application is changed by this paper to "Block error correction codes with convolutional parity" in order to more clearly point out Applicant's invention.

Applicant's claims 1-10 now stand rejected, as anticipated by Zdunek under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 are independent; claims 2-3, 5-6, 8, and 10 depend, respectively, on independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 9. With this paper, Applicant has amended independent claims 4, 7, and 9 by including the limitation "each having k blocks of data" to more clearly point out Applicant's invention; this limitation is present originally in claim 1.

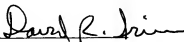
Regarding this limitation, Zdunek teaches (col. 1, lines 22-32) that the prior art has developed three basic and distinct coding schemes, which are block codes, convolutional codes, and interleaving, and further that in block codes (now contrasting with convolutional codes) the parity bits and information bits are sent in distinct blocks. Thus, as recognized by Zdunek, Applicant's invention and Zdunek are fundamentally different, in that Applicant's invention provides a block code with

convolutional parity bits, which is still very much a block code, whereas Zdunek provides a conventional convolutional code with bit interleaving.

Thus, Applicant respectfully holds that the rejections of independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 are not proper, as Zdunek does not teach all of the elements of these independent claims. More specifically, Zdunek does not teach the block limitation of the first element of Applicant's claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 as amended here, which clearly establish Applicant's invention as a block code rather than a convolutional code.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully holds that independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 as amended here should be allowed. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8, and 10 depend on these independent claims, and therefore should also be allowed as amended here. Applicant sincerely thanks Examiner, and respectfully requests that claims 1-10 now pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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